

# Appendix C

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## Environmental Information Document Format Guidelines

### Environmental Information Document Guidelines

The level of analysis provided in the Environmental Information Document (EID) should be commensurate with the magnitude of construction activities and their potential impact. In order to facilitate consistency in environmental reviews, the following topics must be addressed in the Environmental Information Document (EID).

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## **1.0 Purpose of and need for Project**

### **1.1. Project Description**

Include a description of the proposed project. It should include information such as the type of treatment plant, the project area, the length of utility lines, and the present worth and annual costs for the project and should identify the primary and secondary funding sources. The description should be one to two paragraphs in length but should provide enough information to allow an uninformed person to understand the purpose of the project.

### **1.2. Purpose of and Need for Project**

State the background for the project, including the reasons that the project is needed.

### **1.3. Future Environment without the Project**

Address the project area and the consequences if no project is implemented to mitigate the needs of the area.

## **2.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action**

### **2.1. Alternatives Considered**

The applicant shall summarize all reasonable alternatives that could satisfy and are consistent with the purpose and need of the project. Alternatives may include:

- Engineering design alternatives,
- Sitting locations of facilities,
- System capacities, etc.

The "No Action" alternative should be discussed in addition to any structural and institutional alternatives and/or constraints.

### **2.2. Feasible Alternatives**

Explain which alternatives were retained for further consideration (typically 2-4), and why the others were rejected. The cost comparisons should be done utilizing a present worth analysis of the capital and operation and maintenance costs. The level of detail should be sufficient to present a compelling case for the selection of an alternative. Describe the area to be affected by each alternative considered to be feasible. Identify the environmental resources in the affected areas. For each of the topic areas (3.1 - 3.13), discuss the environmental effects or consequences considered, including:

- Direct effects (changes directly related to the project activity)
- Indirect effects (changes caused by the project, but which occur later in time or are removed in distance, but which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. growth related changes in population density, land use, and natural environment)
- Cumulative effects (total changes to the environment resulting from the effect of the selected alternative when added to the effect of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions)

- Identify which alternative has been selected, and state the reasons why this alternative has been chosen.

### 3.0 Environmental Consequences of Selected Alternative

Describe and document the effects of the selected alternative on the different environmental considerations listed below. Discuss any mitigation measures necessary to avoid or minimize any adverse impacts to a specific environmental consideration.

#### 3.1. Land Use / Important Farmland / Formally Classified Lands

- Address compliance with local zoning and land use planning. The land uses to be evaluated include potential growth effects (i.e. sprawl vs. compact development) which may occur as a result of the project. Submit copies of letters from the local and county planning commissions commenting on the project along with a copy of the USGS map showing the proposed project facilities.
- Identify prime farmland in the service area and describe the effects on its use, both short and long term.
- Document impacts on national and state parks, forests, and trails. If there are any state or national parks, forests, or trails within one mile of the project area, provide a map showing project site in relation to these resources, and contact the appropriate agency for comment.
- Document impacts on national monuments and landmarks. If there are any of these resources within one mile of the project area, provide a map showing project site in relationship to them, and contact the National Park Service for comment.

#### 3.2. Floodplains

Address any effects on the 100-year floodplain and the associated floodway. Address compliance with local floodplain ordinances. Include copies of the applicable FEMA floodplain map with the project facilities identified. If the report identifies impacts which may be mitigated through proper construction techniques as identified in the General Permits, identify which General Permits will be utilized during the project.

Address how the project will comply with EO 13690 requiring the floodplain shall be established using the following approach:

*The elevation and flood hazard area that result from using the freeboard value, reached by adding an additional 2 feet to the base flood elevation for non-critical actions and by adding an additional 3 feet to the base flood elevation for critical actions.*

#### 3.3. Wetlands

Address any effects on wetlands. Include copies of: 1) the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map showing proposed project facilities, and 2) the NRCS soils maps showing the location of proposed structures along with copies of the county list of hydric soils and soils with hydric inclusions. If the report identifies impacts which may be mitigated through proper construction techniques as identified in the General Permits, identify which General Permits will be utilized during the project. If any structures are proposed on hydric soils or soils with hydric inclusions, hire a qualified expert to do a wetland determination. If wetlands are present, proceed to have the wetlands delineated

by a qualified expert, and have the delineation verified by the Corps of Engineers, and provide a copy of their letter of jurisdictional determination.

#### 3.4. Cultural Resources

Address any effects on archaeological and historic properties. To document any impact, send the following to the appropriate contact (CWSRF - DNREC - Cultural and Recreational Services (CARS); DWSRF - State Historic Preservation Office) requesting comments:

- USGS Map showing project structures and lines
- Discussion of recent utility work or other soils disturbances in the project area
- Description of proposed project funding sources

Include a copy of the response letter as an exhibit to the EID.

#### 3.5. Biological Resources

Address any effects on endangered, threatened, and protected species and their critical habitats. Indicate the project area on a USGS Map, and submit it to the DNREC Fish and Wildlife for federal and state listed species. Include responses with the EID.

#### 3.6. Water Quality Issues

Address any positive or negative effects on surface and ground water quality and quantity. Describe any short- or long-term impacts on the watershed, including any applicable compliance issues. For projects requiring a stream discharge, identify the receiving stream and its water quality classification.

Determine whether the project is located within a sole-source aquifer recharge area as designated by EPA. Describe effects on water uses, such as public bathing places, drinking water supplies, irrigation, industrial intakes, and stock watering uses.

For projects which utilize existing infrastructure (i.e., existing wastewater plants) describe its available capacity and performance/enforcement status.

#### 3.7. Coastal Resources

Address any potential impacts within the Coastal Zone. Determine whether project requires Federal Consistency Certification.

#### 3.8. Socio-Economic Issues

Describe whether the project imposes any disproportionate adverse effects on minority and disadvantaged populations. Consult census bureau demographics, state/local agencies, local civic organizations, and identify locations of minority and low-income populations.

#### 3.9. Air Quality

Address any effects on air quality. If construction activities will generate dust emissions which need to be controlled, indicate what methods will be used to minimize these emissions. Address any potential sources of odor emissions which may be generated or eliminated through the

implementation of the project. For treatment plants storing large quantities of chlorine (greater than 2,500 pounds) or sulfur dioxide (greater than 5,000 pounds), a risk management plan will be required.

#### 3.10. Transportation

Address any effects on transportation patterns.

#### 3.11. Noise Abatement and Control

Address any effects on noise-sensitive developments, such as residential areas. Include any impacts from blowers or pumps.

#### 3.12. Wild and Scenic Rivers

Determine whether the project will have any effects on any river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, the National Rivers Inventory, or on American Heritage Rivers. Obtain a Scenic Rivers map or list from the state environmental agency. If the project is located within one mile of a listed stream, contact the National Park Service for comments.

#### 3.13. Miscellaneous Environmental Considerations

Address any other environmental issues which may pertain to the project, such as:

- Biosolids generation, treatment, and disposal
- Impact of the project on or from local landfills
- Impact of the project on or from Superfund/HSCA sites
- “Hazardous Operations Explosive or Flammable in Nature” (HUD/DCED only)
- “Toxic Chemicals and Radioactive Materials” (HUD/DCED only)

### 4.0 Summary of Mitigation

Summarize any potential adverse impacts which have been identified. Indicate the methods by which the impacts may be mitigated, who will be responsible and the schedule for completion. This section applies only to actions which are project specific. Actions occurring under the authorization of existing laws or permits need not be addressed in this section.

### 5.0 Public Participation

Describe the steps taken to ensure public participation in the planning and implementation of the project. Include dates of any public meetings, newspaper advertisements, or other actions. Summarize any information provided to the public, such as anticipated benefits, impacts, and user rates. Summarize any comments received from the general public; local, county, and regional planning commissions; and the responses that were provided.

### 6.0 Exhibits

Provide documentation of contact and comment from the applicable agencies, as appropriate, for the environmental considerations addressed in Section 3, including relevant maps showing the project facilities in detail.